



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## ***Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses***

**Sacramento, CA** – Small, non-farm businesses in the counties of **Honolulu** and **Kauai** are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These loans are to offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by the rain and flooding in Honolulu and Kauai from February 20, 2006 through March 26, 2006, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Linda Lingle.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

Information and application forms may be obtained by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955, or by visiting the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Mail completed applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **December 26, 2006**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).*

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